

Appl. No. : 09/873,339
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-15. Canceled.

16. (Currently amended) A process for use in identifying a customer computer involved in an online transaction ~~through~~ via a merchant web site between a customer using a customer browser operating on said customer computer and a merchant who operates said merchant web site, in order to monitor for possible fraudulent transactions using the computer, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~said merchant web site providing to said customer browser coding a~~ redirect script request within a transaction form of said merchant web site, wherein said redirect script causes ;

~~— (b) said customer browser processing said script request by said customer browser upon accessing said merchant web site to thereby to~~ communicate to an archiver web site of a machine data archiving service an electronic request for a machine data collection script;

(e) ~~said archiver web site returning said~~ machine data collection script to said customer browser along with a transaction identification string, wherein said machine data collection script causes ;

~~— (d) said customer browser processing said~~ machine data collection script to thereby cause said script customer browser to query said customer computer for a machine fingerprint of said customer computer, wherein said machine fingerprint comprises a hashed attribute string associated with one or more attributes of said customer computer, and wherein said machine data collection script causes ;

~~— (e) said customer browser script causing said customer browser to communicate said machine fingerprint and said transaction identification string to said archiver web site; , and~~

~~— (f) said archiver web site storing said machine fingerprint and said transaction identification string in a machine data profile as an archiver record;~~

wherein (g) said machine data collection script causing also causes said customer browser to write said transaction identification string into said transaction form; and

said merchant web site receiving from (h) upon said customer adding browser customer identification information to with said transaction form and electronically submitting said transaction form to said merchant web site to thereby comprise a transaction record, and storing the transaction record with the transaction identification string as a merchant record;

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~~whereby~~ said transaction identification string ~~associating~~ associates said transaction record with said machine data ~~profile~~ fingerprint.

17. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 16 ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

———(a) said machine data collection script ~~causing~~ causes said ~~computer~~ customer browser to communicate said machine fingerprint and said transaction identification string along with a conventional hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) header; ~~and, and wherein the process further comprises the step of~~

———(b) said archiver service additionally storing said HTTP header in association with said machine data profile.

18. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 16 further comprising:

———(a) ~~said~~ machine data collection script querying said customer browser for a configuration setting thereof.

19. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 16 ~~further comprising~~ wherein

———(a) said script ~~querying~~ causes said customer browser ~~for to provide~~ a plurality of configuration settings;

———(b) ~~said script, and to forming form~~ an attribute string from said plurality of configuration settings; ~~and~~

———(c) ~~said script processing, and to process~~ said attribute string to form said machine fingerprint of said customer computer.

20. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 19 ~~further comprising~~:

———(a) ~~wherein~~ said script ~~performing~~ performs a hashing function on said attribute string to form said machine fingerprint.

21. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 16 wherein said redirect script causes customer computer ~~accesses~~ to access said merchant web site by way of a proxy, ~~said process further comprising~~:

———(a) ~~said script communicating~~ and to communicate said machine fingerprint and said transaction identification string to said archiver web site using a protocol which bypasses said proxy.

22. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 16 ~~further comprising~~:

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———(a)wherein —said machine data collection script causes said customer browser to communicate communicating—said machine data profilefingerprint to said archiver web site using a protocol other than HTTP.

23. (Currently amended) A process as set forth in claim 16 wherein said customer computer comprises a digital clock, and wherein further comprising: (a) said script causing causes said customer browser to query said clock for a time value; and ~~(b) said script causing said customer browser, and~~ to send said time value to said archiver web site along with said machine fingerprint.

24-26. Canceled.

27. (New) A process as in claim 16, further comprising: a qualified party accessing said archiver web site to examine said machine fingerprint and said transaction identification string along with other machine fingerprints and transaction identification strings in order to determine evidence of a pattern of suspicious behavior by a customer associated with said transaction identification string.